

Another problem consists ~~in~~of the corrosion of the electrodes in the aqueous medium. This corrosion is partially increased by the fact that the aqueous medium has salts added to it in order to improve conductivity and facilitate the electrical discharge. Corrosion of the electrodes allows only short storage times for the device. It is known that storability can be improved by surface-coating the electrodes, for example nickel-plating or lacquer coating. This coating protects the electrode material against corrosion during storage. If, however, the electrode is used, the surface coating is destroyed during the first discharges by burnout and can no longer serve as corrosion protection. Storability of the electrodes after the first use is therefore not provided by such a protective coating. In addition, the material of the coating which enters the aqueous medium in the vicinity of the electrode tips during the discharge can affect the conductivity of the material in an uncontrolled fashion. In this way, the operation of the device becomes unreliable.